



SHIPSHAPE

"Keeping you in touch with
the world's finest Navy"

September-November 2004

As you know, our Leaders To Sea program continues to provide today's civic and business leaders valuable exposure to the training, technology and people that make up today's Naval Surface Force. I thank you for your continued interest in our ships and Sailors and their important mission. I appreciate your efforts to engage others about your experience and the great job that these young people are doing for the nation.

The last few issues of Shipshape went into some detail about destroyers, cruisers and two of classes of our amphibious assault ships; I would like to spend some time looking at another type of amphibious ship, the Dock Landing Ship (LSD).

When Marines talk about taking a beach during amphibious assault missions, it is often from these versatile warships that they operate. These amphibious transports are used to sea-base, transport and land Marines and their equipment. They do that via embarked landing craft and are augmented by helicopters or airplanes operating from the amphibious assault ships that we focused on last month. I invite you to find out more about LSDs by looking at the spotlight article on page two.

For more than 225 years the Navy and Marines have operated together to provide forward presence and the ability to respond to crises around the world. The Navy-Marine Corps team was the original joint warfighting force!

I welcome our newest LTS alumni and look forward to educating you further about your Navy!



**Vice Admiral
Tim LaFleur
Commander
Naval Surface Force
U.S. Pacific Fleet**

Keep Smiling,
Tim LaFleur

The U.S. Navy: Around the World, Around the Clock

Status of the Navy

Navy Personnel

Active Duty: 372,905 **Ready Reserve: 148,643** [As of 30 Sept.]
 -- Officers: 54,241 -- Selected Reserves: 82,558
 -- Enlisted: 314,356 -- Individual Ready Reserve: 66,085
Midshipmen: 4,308 **Reserves currently mobilized: 3,574**

Personnel on deployment: 47,394

Navy Department Civilian Employees: 180,136 [as of 30 Sept.]

Ships: 289

Ships

Ships Underway (away from homeport):

135 (47% of total)

On deployment:

103 ships (36% of total)

Ships Underway

Command Ships:

USS LaSalle (AGF 3) -
Mediterranean Sea
USS Coronado (AGF 11) -
Pacific Ocean
USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) -
East China Sea

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) -
Pacific Ocean
USS George Washington (CVN 73) -
Atlantic Ocean
USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) -
Mediterranean Sea

Essex ESG

31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (SOC)
USS Essex (LHD 2) - Persian Gulf
USS Juneau (LPD 10) - Arabian Sea
USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) -
Persian Gulf
USS Mobile Bay (CG 53) -
Gulf of Oman
USS Hopper (DDG 70) -
Arabian Sea
USS Preble (DDG 88) -
Gulf of Oman

Amphibious Ships:

USS Nassau (LHA 4) - Atlantic Ocean
USS Wasp (LHD 1) - port visit,
Mayport, Fla.
USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) - port visit,
Earle, New Jersey
USS Germantown (LSD 42) -
Pacific Ocean

Carriers:

USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67) -
Persian Gulf
USS Nimitz (CVN 68) - Pacific Ocean

New Leaders to Sea Alumni

**The following LTS guests embarked in August,
September and October 2004:**

Randy Schimpf, San Diego Sheriff's Aviation Detail
Joe Battaglia, Radio Host, The American Advisor
Christian Battaglia, President, Ardent Enterprises
Rinus Baak, Senior Director, Project Office, San Diego Unified Port District
Chris Anderson, Vice President, Operations, San Diego Unified Port District
Ellen Born, Assistant Port Attorney, San Diego Unified Port District
Jeff McEntee, CFO/Treasurer, San Diego Unified Port District
Mark Matsuda, Lieutenant, Torrance Police Department
Jeff Rauch, Account Manager, Poly-Pacific Technologies
Rod Irvine, Lieutenant, Torrance Police Department
Ross Bartlett, Sergeant, Torrance Police Department
Pat McIntyre, Councilmember, City of Torrance
Paul Nowatka, Councilmember, City of Torrance
Frank Scotto, Councilmember, City of Torrance
Robert Lara, Sergeant, Torrance Police Department
Randy Schimpf, Educator, Barnett Elementary School
Joe Battaglia, Radio Host, The American Advisor
Christian Battaglia, President, Ardent Enterprises
Rinus Baak, Senior Director, Project Office, San Diego Unified Port District
Chris Anderson, Vice President, Operations, San Diego Unified Port District
Ellen Born, Assistant Port Attorney, San Diego Unified Port District
Jeff McEntee, CFO/Treasurer, San Diego Unified Port District
Mark Matsuda, Lieutenant, Torrance Police Department
Jeff Rauch, Account Manager, Poly-Pacific Technologies
Rod Irvine, Lieutenant, Torrance Police Department
Ross Bartlett, Sergeant, Torrance Police Department
Pat McIntyre, Councilmember, City of Torrance
Paul Nowatka, Councilmember, City of Torrance
Frank Scotto, Councilmember, City of Torrance
Robert Lara, Sergeant, Torrance Police Department
Rick Eis, Software Engineer, NuVasive, Inc.
Joel Stein, Operations Supervisor, Marketplace Productions
Bill Vaughter, Claims Operations Manager, Mercury Insurance
Bob Crawford, Collections Manager, S.D. Maritime Museum
Craig Evans, Fire Captain, Los Angeles Fire Department
Dorothy Williams, Co-Owner, Williams Auto
Mike Hubert, Fire Chief, City of Poway Fire Department
Don Rindell, President/COO, Medical Device Group
Brooks Deegan, Vice President, Wells Fargo Bank
Clark Ward, Director, Financial Services, Port of San Diego
Nick Lopez, President & Owner, Sunwest Business Printing
Jon Canavan, Fire Division Training Chief, City of Poway Fire Department
Gary Ryerson, Realty Manager, Century 21 Award
Bruce Bowers, Legislative Affairs, AARP
George Hallad, Senior Vice President, Wedbush Morgan Securities
Mark Allen, Library Manager, S. D. Maritime Museum
Tim Conway, Electrical Engineer, IBM
Jack Whittemore, Broker, Century 21 Award
John Kreuger, Vice President, West Coast Air Conditioning Co., Inc.
Dave Kritser, Regional Vice President, Allied Van Lines
Sue McCann, Assistant Superintendent - Business Affairs, Garden Grove Unified School District
Mike Samaniego, Master Auto Technician, Lincoln Mercury Mayberry
Bill McCann, Health Care - Project Manager, Pacificare Health Systems

THE GATOR NAVY

The United States Navy Dock Landing Ships (LSD) support amphibious operations including landings via Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC), conventional landing craft and helicopters, onto hostile shores. These ships transport and launch amphibious craft and vehicles with their crews and embarked personnel in amphibious assault operations. The Landing Ship Dock also provide docking and repair services for LCACs and for conventional landing craft.

The Navy thought so much of the capabilities of the LSD that in the early 1950s it decided to build a new class of eight ships. The lead ship of the class, the USS Thomaston (LSD-28), was launched February 9, 1954. These ships sported redesigned superstructures as well as sleeker and more eye pleasing hull lines. This class could be identified from the earlier ships in that its ship had their main lifting cranes and smoke stacks offset from one side to the other.

The next step was the Anchorage-class ships, first launched in 1969. They can embark 302 troops and have extensive storage facilities, including 1,400 cubic feet for cargo and ammunition stowage and 8,400 square feet (15,200 square feet on board the LSD 36M ships) for vehicle storage. Their flight decks have one helicopter spot, and they can carry two or three LCACs in their well decks. The LSD 36s possess limited medical facilities, but they can serve a casualty receiving and treatment ship when augmented.

By the late 1980s most of the Thomaston class had been decommissioned and placed in inactive reserve status. The LSD-41 class was intended to replace the older LSD-28 Thomaston class. LSD 41 was designed specifically to operate LCAC vessels. It has the largest capacity for these landing craft (four) of any U.S. Navy amphibious platform. It will also provide docking and repair services for LCACs and for conventional landing craft. The Whidbey Island-class introduces significant improvements with updated communications, combat systems, 20- and 60-ton cranes, expanded repair shops, two helicopter landing spots, complete medical and dental facilities, automated computer-based logistic support and an impressive engineering plant that gives the Whidbey Island an excellent capability for self-sufficient operations.

The design of the Harpers Ferry (LSD 49)-class dock landing ship is similar to that of the LSD 41-class, with ships of both classes sharing the same general dimensions and propulsion plant. The major difference between the two is the shorter well deck in the Harpers Ferry class, which was adopted to allow greater vehicle stowage and cargo storage. This modification reduces the number of LCACs that these ships can carry from four to two. Otherwise, the LSD 49s can embark 454 troops and have extensive storage facilities – 50,700 cubic feet for cargo and ammunition and 16,900 square feet for vehicles. Each of these warships also have two helicopter deck spots.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information about the evolution of Navy amphibious ships and operations since WWII.

Click on each photo to find out more about this unique type of amphibious assault ship.

**USS THOMASTON
(LSD 28)
Commissioned in 1954**



**USS ANCHORAGE
(LSD 36)
Commissioned in 1969**

**USS WHIDBEY ISLAND
(LSD 41)
Commissioned in 1985**



**USS HARPERS FERRY
(LSD 49)
Commissioned in 1995**

Who is eligible for Leaders to Sea?

How can I nominate someone?

Upcoming Leaders to Sea embarks are scheduled for the following ships/dates:

USS GERMANTOWN (LSD 42)	15-18 NOVEMBER
USS BELLEAU WOOD (LHA 3)	24-28 JANUARY
USS MOBILE BAY (CG 53)	22-25 FEBRUARY
USS DECATUR (DDG 73)	21-25 MARCH

This program is designed for people who are active and influential in business, government or the community, as well as people who are active communicators and opinion leaders. Follow the link below to download the nomination form (64KB Microsoft Word file) or e-mail us if you need more information:

**patrick.w.mcnally@navy.mil
david.w.mcbride@navy.mil**

Download nomination/application form
www.surfpac.navy.mil/html/docs/lts_nomination_form.doc

Surface Navy In the News...

Click the headlines for the rest of the story

Cushing Returns from Northern Arabian Gulf

YOKOSUKA, Japan (NNS) -- USS Cushing (DD 985) returned to Yokosuka, Japan, Aug. 27 after being deployed for nearly five months in the Persian Gulf.

Chafee Takes CPO Selectees to the Next Level

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (NNS) -- The guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) held battle stations drills Sept. 16 for its chief petty officer (CPO) selectees, as the culmination of six weeks of physical training, practical team building and leadership exercises, preparing them for their new duties and responsibilities.

ESG 3 Proves Flexibility, Mobility with 1st Staff Crossdeck at Sea

BOARD USS ESSEX, North Arabian Gulf (NNS) -- Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 3 executed the first ESG flag staff cross deck at sea Sept. 9, from USS Belleau Wood (LHA 3) to USS Essex (LHD 2).

Harpers Ferry Provides Security, Meals, 'Pies for Our Guys'

NORTH ARABIAN GULF (NNS) -- USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) deployed from the western Pacific in August and assumed duties as the Afloat Forward Staging Base in the Northern Arabian Gulf Sept. 15, where she is contributing to Maritime Security Operations.

Navy Units Assist Interdiction of Two Largest Drug Shipments in History

MAYPORT, Fla. (NNS) -- Two U.S. Navy ships, their embarked helicopters and two maritime patrol aircraft supported the two largest drug seizures in history while deployed to the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command area of responsibility (AOR) in September.